

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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For Immediate Release
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Mason County Driver Arrested for DUI/ Minor Injury School Bus Collision

Belfair, WA - At 9:08 a.m. troopers assigned to the Shelton detachment of the Washington State Patrol received a report of a school bus collision in the 600 block of Old Belfair Highway, just north of Belfair. Troopers arrived on scene and located a North Mason school bus which had been rear ended by a 1987 Ford pickup truck. At the time of the collision the school bus had 15 children on board plus the driver. Two children and the school bus driver sustained minor injuries. The driver of the Ford pickup also sustained minor injuries, and was later arrested for DUI.

The school bus had come to a complete stop in the southbound lane of Old Belfair Highway behind another bus that was in the process of picking up children. The school bus had been stopped for a number of seconds. While the school bus was stopped it was rear ended by the Ford pickup truck. The collision occurred along a straight, level section of Old Belfair Highway.

One child from the bus and the driver of the Ford pickup were transported to Harrison Hospital in Bremerton for minor injuries. The driver of the school bus and the second child was transported to Mason General Hospital in Shelton for minor injuries.

Troopers contacted the driver of the Ford pickup at Harrison Hospital to investigate the cause of the collision. Troopers were able to develop probable cause that the driver was under the influence of drugs at the time of the collision. The driver, 37 year old Christopher N. Harmon from Belfair was arrested for driving under the influence. A blood draw was completed as part of the investigation. Troopers will file a DUI report with the Mason County Prosecutor's Office, pending blood alcohol results.

Trooper assigned to the Washington State Patrol's Commercial Vehicle Division responded to the scene and completed an inspection of the school bus. Troopers indicated they did not find any mechanical or light violations on the school bus.

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